

President Dudley's passionate commitment to Hastings College and its students will be missed as he retires in July of 2011, but his support of the institution will continue after his retirement as President Dudley will work with the Hastings College Foundation to manage the college's fund-raising and alumni activities.

I congratulate Phil on his outstanding career in higher education and thank him for his contributions to Nebraska's educational reputation.

### BULGARIA'S HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, twenty years ago today, I served as an election observer in Bulgaria on behalf of the International Republican Institute (IRI)

It was a life changing dream come true for me to experience firsthand the birth of liberty in a captive nation, which had been subjected for decades to Nazism and Communism. As a lifelong Cold Warrior I always promoted victory over Communism. A strong American military developed by President Ronald Reagan produced peace through strength and veterans today can see with pride more countries than ever as free market democracies.

On June 10, 1990, the people of Bulgaria participated in the first free elections since the 1930s. It was inspiring to visit polling places in the Plovdiv region and witness the young and old participating freely. The talented people of Bulgaria were unshackled. People did not want to be a slavish Soviet satellite. I have developed a lifelong affection for the people of Bulgaria.

Since then, Bulgaria has evolved from the antiquated "frozen in time" nation of the 1930s to being a vibrant free market democracy of today. It is now a valued member of NATO with troops having served in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is a dynamic member of the European Union. On the evening before the election in Plovdiv I met a musician who explained how he was inspired by Armed Forces Radio out of Greece with his favorite composer John Philip Sousa—as he stated, "Stars and Stripes Forever." I responded, "Bulgaria Forever."

Two years ago I visited the training base at Novo Selo where young Bulgarian and American troops participate in joint training exercises. The American base was the first invited of foreign troops in Bulgaria's 1225 year history. I particularly appreciate Ambassador Elena Poptodrova for her promotion of the Bulgaria-America partnership. I am grateful for my first Bulgarian hosts Stefan Stoyanor, his wife Elizabeth and daughter Jana. Their warm Bulgarian welcome will never be forgotten.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism. God Bless Bulgaria.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 337 (on passage of H.R. 1061, as amended), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 338 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 518, as amended).

### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PENSACOLA CITY POLICE CHIEF JOHN W. MATHIS

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is the highest honor to recognize Chief of Police John W. Mathis, a dedicated public servant and community leader. His service to Pensacola and his commitment to law enforcement are truly remarkable. For that reason, Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Chief Mathis for his distinguished work over the last three decades as a law enforcement officer at the Pensacola Police Department.

Sworn in to protect and to serve, Chief Mathis first put on the badge in 1978. Since that day he has dedicated his entire adult life to selflessly putting the needs of others before his own while in the line of duty. As Chief of Police, Mr. John Mathis held his officers and himself to the highest standards of courtesy, integrity, and professionalism. These core values have guided his philosophy and world view, while reducing crime and improving the quality of life of everyone in the Pensacola community.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that during his time in law enforcement, Chief Mathis has never betrayed the badge, his integrity, his character, or the public trust. On behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the visionary leadership and outstanding service of a real American hero. I congratulate and thank Chief John W. Mathis for his 32 years of service. My wife Vicki and I wish him a happy retirement.

### IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLES CRADDOCK, AN AMERICAN HERO

#### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Charles Craddock, a World War II Veteran and Prisoner of War. I offer most heartfelt thanks to Mr. Craddock for his selfless and heroic service to our nation and dedication to preserving

our freedoms. It is with great appreciation that I share his story in hopes of inspiring today's generation of young men and women to live with the same sense of duty and purpose.

In April of 1943, Mr. Craddock was drafted and sent to Ft. Sill, Okla., then to Fort Polk, La., for basic training. From there, he was transferred into the Air Force Cadet program and took basic training and classification at Sheppard Field, Texas. After completing basic training, he was sent to pre-flight training at Butler University in Indianapolis, Ind. He was then sent to Fort Bragg, N.C., for combat training in the infantry, then to Fort Meade, Md., and Fort Dix, N.J., for further training.

After D-Day, Mr. Craddock traveled to Omaha Beach and joined units of the 3rd Army near Nancy, France. Mr. Craddock was assigned to the 137th D Infantry Regiment of the 35th Division. The first two weeks his unit spent in a defensive position, and then began a drive to the German border.

After two months, his group made it to the border at Sarreguimins. They crossed the Bliss River at night to take some high ground. Five of the soldiers, including Mr. Craddock, in the company were picked to go on patrol to see what lay ahead. They were captured behind the German lines during this patrol.

It was hard getting to the POW camp near Stuttgart, as the Air Force was all around. Most of the distance was covered by walking at night. After spending about a month in Stuttgart, the American forces were driving into this area from southern France, so the prisoners were led into box cars for a miserable trip to the next POW camp at Luckenwald. This train trip lasted about four days and nights for the train would not move during the day for fear of the American Air Force.

During this trip, they never let the POWs out of the box cars and gave them very little food or water. After spending about two months in Luckenwald, the prisoners were broken up in small groups and marched for two days to a camp known as Altengrabow. Once again, in two months, they were told they had to move, and walked through the city of Berlin, which was in ruins from the American and British Air Force bombings.

The group was sent to a small camp west of Berlin, where every night they watched the bombings of the city. They were given no news, but sensed the war was coming to an end.

One morning, near the end of April 1945, they were told to move again. They marched about a day and then spent the night in a barn. During the night, the German guards left. A Russian patrol came by the next day, and escorted them to the American lines on the Elbe River. That was on May 8, 1945, almost six months after being captured.

For his truly brave and fearless service, Mr. Craddock received the following decorations: Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, European Theater with two Battle Stars, and Good Conduct.

Our country and many more around the world are the beneficiaries of his courage and vigilance. On May 16, 2010, America lost a hero with the passing of Mr. Craddock. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Charles Craddock and extending thanks from a grateful nation.